

Gromyko raps U.S. in meeting with Shultz

STOCKHOLM — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko reviewed high-level superpower contact yesterday, after Gromyko blasted American foreign policy at the European disarmament conference. It was Shultz's first meeting with Gromyko in more than four years. (Eytan story page 4)

The official Soviet news agency, TASS, said that the talks were conducted by the Soviet side in a "totalitarian and principled manner," which in Soviet terms means friction if not outright argument.

It said Gromyko blamed the U.S. for the failure of the Geneva medium-range missile talks and told Shultz the talks could only be resumed if the U.S. "shows readiness to return to the situation that existed prior to the commenced deployment of American missiles in Europe."

"Andrei Gromyko resolutely denounced Washington's course towards heightening tension in various parts of the world...towards escalating gross, including military, interference in the affairs of sovereign states," TASS said.

It said Gromyko rejected Shultz's argument that the U.S. is seeking greater international stability.

The talks were the first between the two men since last September, when they had a frosty encounter after Soviet pilots shot down a South Korean airliner. Since then relations have been further soured by U.S. missile deployments in Western Europe and a Soviet walkout from missile negotiations. (Reuter, AP)

Islamic group invites Egypt back—but conditionally

CASABLANCA (AP) — The 43-nation Islamic summit conference yesterday invited Egypt to resume its place as a founder member of the group — on condition that it endorse all joint Arab positions on the Middle East conflict.

The summit approved by consensus a proposal to end the three-year-old suspension of Egypt from the Islamic Conference Organization as soon as the Egyptian government explicitly endorses the decisions taken at an earlier Islamic summit in 1981 and at an Arab summit in 1982.

The decision here implicitly called on Egypt to accept wording that rejects the Camp David accords, though without requiring a formal renunciation of the agreements.

The summit took no action on a Syrian and Libyan demand that Egypt renounce its peace with Israel before being readmitted to the Islamic group.

Conference sources said the summit reached a compromise after midnight following an acrimonious debate on a demand by Asian and African moderates to readmit Egypt. The last summit meeting of the Islamic nations, held in Taif, Saudi Arabia in 1981, decided to suspend Egypt's membership because the late president Anwar Sadat had signed the Camp David peace agreements with Israel.

Soon after disclosing the compromise on the most contentious issue facing the meeting, Moroccan officials announced that the summit would close late yesterday, 24 hours earlier than expected.

"This was seen as an indication that the Iranian leadership had rejected a last-minute invitation from the summit to end its boycott and agree to open peace talks with Israel on the Gulf war under the auspices of the Islamic nations."

The sources said Syria and Libya took the lead in opposing Egypt's readmission.

BRONFMAN
International Press & Books
TIME
January 23, 1984

- A THAW IN THE BIG CHILL
- U.S.—U.S.S.R. relations
- The Historic visit of Premier Zhao
- ARGENTINA on the trail of the disappeared

Histadrut-Treasury pay agreement near

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV — The Treasury and the Histadrut yesterday narrowed their differences over wage increases to public servants, but did not reach an agreement.

They are to meet here again shortly before noon today.

By last night, the government agreed not only to give civil servants \$55,000 a month more until March 31, when the current wage agreement expires. It also agreed to give a "slight raise" beyond that, a senior government negotiator said.

Late yesterday afternoon, the employers' representatives, led by Hillel Dugdi, the Treasury official responsible for wages, and civil service commissioner Abraham Natan, left the conference room and let the various trade union secretaries decide among themselves exactly what they wanted.

Yitzhak Raz of the Engineers Union and Ya'akov Unikovsky of the Union of Graduates in Social Sciences and Humanities wanted the raise set in percentages, since their members' wages are relatively high, so they would benefit by such a method. But other unionists prevailed in demanding raises of fixed sums.

The proposal which trade union

department chairman Yisrael Kesar finally presented called for an \$55,000 monthly "erosion allowance," to be updated as of next month in line with the cost-of-living allowance. An additional fixed sum would be given for every year of seniority, under the proposal. It would be the same for all civil servants, regardless of their unions.

The proposal should allow government workers that some workers would get huge increases. Much of teachers' pay, for example, is determined by the high seniority allowances. The talks lasted some 6½ hours, ending shortly before 9 p.m.

A senior government source indicated that the talks would have ended long ago, had it not been for friction between the various trade unionists.

Natan was ready to conclude an agreement with Reuben Ben-Ami, secretary of the Civil Servants Union, and wanted the Clerks Union representative to come along on behalf of the Defence Ministry workers.

But the clerks boycotted the talks in protest against foot-dragging by the heads of the local authorities over demands for raises for their 70,000 employees.

Uzan says Labour Ministry will cut IS4b. from budget

By AVI TEMER and AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporters

A meeting between Labour and Social Affairs Minister Aharon Uzan and Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orag ended yesterday in Jerusalem with a promise by the former that his ministry will fulfill the promise to cut IS4 billion from its budget during the current fiscal year.

Treasury officials speaking after the meeting did not conceal their satisfaction with this outcome and expect it to aid Cohen-Orag's efforts to win cabinet approval for the budget proposal prepared by the Treasury and approved by the Ministerial Economic Committee.

"Now that Tami has shown willingness to cut its ministry's budget, the officials said, "other problematic ministries" watching that party will tend to come to terms with the Treasury as well.

Last night, Tami leaders, still

shaken by the National Insurance Institute's disclosure this week that about half a million Israelis were living below the poverty line in 1982, met again with Cohen-Orag to plan strategy for next week's opposition no-confidence motion based upon the report.

Benzion Rubin, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, said that "Cohen-Orag will have to reply for the government on the no-confidence motion, so we want to give him some advice."

Rubin said the government should act immediately to increase NII allowances so that their purchasing power is not eroded by rapid inflation. Income tax brackets should be adjusted as well, he said, to preserve wage earners' income.

"Above all," Rubin added, "we will remind the minister that we in Tami still demand government backing for a minimum wage law. This would keep another 100,000 Israelis from going on welfare."

Soldier dies after Lebanon attack

TEL AVIV (Idm) — Turai David Greenwald, 20, was buried yesterday in the Kiryat Shaul cemetery. He died of injuries sustained last Thursday when a truck in which he was travelling was ambushed south of the Zaharani River in Lebanon.

Greenwald was the only son of Holocaust survivors. He

volunteered for the paratroops, was transferred from the unit when it was discovered that he was an only son, and returned to it after a struggle with IDF authorities.

Greenwald was on his way home for a visit when he was injured. His unit has lost two soldiers in the last month.

Gunman killed after attacking IDF position

Jerusalem Post Staff

A gunman was killed yesterday afternoon by IDF fire in Sidon after he opened fire on an IDF position, the army spokesman announced. There were no Israeli casualties.

Reports from Sidon said that the gunman was 14 years old and had opened fire on an Israeli jeep in the port area.

Two children in the Palestinian

refugee camp of Bourj a-Shammali south of Tyre were wounded yesterday by ricocheting bullets when IDF soldiers fired at a suspicious package. The children were given first aid by an IDF doctor and treated in a local hospital.

Although the package did not explode when fired at, it was later found to contain five kilograms of explosives. It was safely dismantled.

Islamic group claims responsibility

Beirut's American University head shot dead

BEIRUT (AP) — The president of the American University of Beirut, Malcolm Kerr, was shot and killed yesterday outside his office on the campus in the western sector of the Lebanese capital.

About four hours after the fatal shooting, an anonymous telephone caller told the Beirut office of Agence France Presse that Jihad Islami (Islamic Holy War) was responsible for the assassination.

The caller also claimed that Jihad Islami was behind Tuesday's gunpoint abduction of the Saudi consul in Beirut, and said the kidnapped diplomat "is being tried according to Islamic law and we will soon throw out his body."

"We are responsible for the assassination of the president of the American University of Beirut, who was a victim of the American military presence in Lebanon," the caller said in Arabic, according to AFP.

"We also vow that not a single American or Frenchman will remain on this soil. We shall take no

different course and will not waver," the caller said.

Jihad Islami is the same group that claimed responsibility for the October 23 suicide truck-bombings that killed several hundred American and French troops of the multinational force in Beirut.

The group, which has declared its loyalty to Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, also claimed responsibility for the car bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut last April 18 that killed 17 Americans and 32 other persons.

Several pro-Khomeini Shia Muslim Lebanese leaders have publicly disclaimed Jihad Islami. Sheikh Hussein Fadlallah, one of the most influential pro-Khomeini Mullahs in Lebanon has said "this organization does not exist. It is a telephone organization."

Lebanon's top Druse opposition leader, Walid Jumblatt, issued a statement in Damascus that blamed Kerr's assassination and the Saudi consul's abduction on right-wing Christians.

Reagan expresses shock over Kerr slaying

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON — A White House spokesman, speaking in the name of President Ronald Reagan, yesterday expressed "condemnation and shock" in the wake of the

murder of Malcolm Kerr.

A State Department spokesman also termed the killing a violation of academic freedom. He said the U.S. would make every effort to discover who carried out the murder.

Sharon disavowal of war riles ex-generals

By HIRSH GOODMAN
Post Defence Correspondent

Ariel Sharon's contention that he was not a party to the government decision to bomb Beirut and call up reserves on the eve of Operation Peace for Galilee in June 1982 has left those who were then in senior IDF positions fuming.

Both former prime minister Menachem Begin and former chief of staff Rafael Eitan yesterday made it clear that while Sharon was out of the country on a secret mission on the Friday and Saturday preceding the war, the former defence minister was fully responsible.

Eitan said that Sharon attended a meeting at the prime minister's residence at 9:00 p.m. on Saturday night, where the decision was taken to go to war. Accusing Sharon of not telling the truth, he added that Sharon was an active participant in that discussion, in the decision on Sunday morning to move up the opening stages of the war by two hours and in all talks during the planning stages.

While Sharon was out of the country when the decision was taken to bomb terrorist positions in Lebanon, including in Beirut, in retaliation for the attack on Israel's ambassador in London Shlomo Argov, the raids had nothing to do with the war as such, and were isolated from the cardinal decision of whether to launch Operation Peace for Galilee, Eitan said.

A former senior member of the general staff, who asked not to be identified, last night accused Sharon of both cowardice and disloyalty to colleagues. Sharon, he said, was not only the main architect of the war, but demanded a much wider-ranging action.

"It is incredible that he is now trying to dissociate himself from the war," the source said. "In fact his claims are so ridiculous that I don't think they are worthy of further comment."

The decision-making process leading up to the war has been well

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Warm welcome for Herzogs in Zaire

Jerusalem Post Staff

President Chaim Herzog and his wife Aura arrived in Zaire yesterday morning for a five-day official visit to one of Israel's staunchest friends in Africa.

The visit was billed as an "historic event" by the government daily newspaper *Elima*, and as the "consolidation of renewed friendship" by the Zaire news agency AZAP.

The Herzogs were met at the airport by President Mobutu Sese Seko and his wife, and their motorcade drove down roads lined with people waving the flags of both nations.

Major roads in Kinshasa were lined with flags and banners in the Zaire and Israeli colours, and city officials said they had prepared a "warm and triumphant welcome" for Herzog.

Herzog was holding his first private discussion with Mobutu immediately afterwards, to be followed by a private lunch, with Mobutu hosting an official banquet last night.

Likud sources believe: Sharon has shot his bolt and may resign soon

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV — The rift between Minister without Portfolio Ariel Sharon and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as well as the mainstream of Herut is now unbridgeable, it is believed in the Likud. Sharon may soon resign from the cabinet, it is thought.

Opinions differ in Herut as to whether Sharon planned the deterioration in his relations with the prime minister and the party after he lost his bid for the post of Jewish Agency Immigration Department head, or simply lost control after the defeat, said things he did not intend, and was then further angered by the reaction to his statements.

In any event, the view in Herut is that there is a direct link — intentional or fired by impulsiveness — between last Thursday's surprise attack by Sharon against Shamir at the Herut Central Committee, his speech on Tuesday apparently shirking responsibility for the military operations that led to the opening of the Peace for Galilee war and, finally, yesterday's Knesset defeat for the coalition in two separate votes.

Sharon was in the House at the



Ariel Sharon (Isaiah Karlin)

time of both votes but sulked in the members' dining room and refused to enter the plenum, even to vote on a topic so close to his heart as the Judea and Samaria settlements.

Sharon's failure to take part in the vote yesterday has started alarm bells ringing in the coalition. He now joins the growing list of "unreliables" — a loss the coalition can ill-afford.

Tami's three MKs are openly straddling the fence and are threatening to cross over to the opposition. A constantly shifting number of Liberal mavericks are also considered "potential trouble-

makers" whose moves and voting patterns can never be reliably predicted. Two of them, MKs Yitzhak Berman and Dror Zeigerman, managed to embarrass the coalition yesterday over the settlements issue, with Sharon's indirect cooperation.

MK Avraham Melamed of the National Religious Party demonstrated earlier in the week in the Knesset Finance Committee that he can also not be counted as a loyal coalition member.

The coalition is also hampered by another problem, which is hardly mentioned and which no one knows how to handle — the continued absence from the House of former prime minister Menachem Begin.

It seems no one dares ask whether Begin might resign and allow the next in line on the Likud's list — Herut's David Mor — to take his seat in the Knesset and add a much-needed vote to the coalition.

After almost a week of attacks by Sharon on the prime minister and his party, it is far from clear whether he will be on hand for next week's no-confidence vote.

There are differing opinions in Herut as to the Sharon's intentions. One view holds that Sharon is frustrated, defeated and feeling let

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Begin: Sharon shares responsibility for war

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Minister without Portfolio Ariel Sharon stirred up a hornets' nest in the political world in Jerusalem yesterday with his remark to Likud trade unionists on Tuesday night. He said that he had no part in the cabinet decisions to mobilize the IDF reserves and to bomb PLO bases inside Beirut on Friday June 4, 1982, two days before the Peace for Galilee operation began.

He was out of Israel when the fateful decisions were taken, Sharon said.

Sharon's remark provoked an immediate reaction, principally from reclusive Menachem Begin, prime minister at the time, who said that

Sharon bore collective responsibility for cabinet decisions whether he was present at the cabinet or not.

Communications Minister Mordechai Zipori, who did more than most of his colleagues to keep Sharon on a short rein during the war, told reporters in the Knesset: "Sharon's remark is the joke of the century."

Following these and many other sharp reactions, Sharon backtracked and explained that he had been quoted out of context by the reporters covering the Likud meeting. He was totally behind the operation in Lebanon, Sharon said, whether he was at the cabinet beforehand or not.

Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i said he could not understand why Sharon had kept a gripe about responsibility for cabinet decisions to himself for 20 months without revealing it publicly. He added that the remark probably reflected Sharon's personal feud with former chief of staff Rafael Eitan, which pre-dated the Lebanon operation.

Moda'i said that in the months prior to the Peace for Galilee operation, Sharon had frequently advocated an invasion of Lebanon, and so had Eitan, but not always simultaneously. "There were times when Eitan was more vociferous and Sharon hung back," Moda'i said.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

Coalition defeated three times

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter

The opposition got its way in three different matters in the Knesset yesterday because the coalition did not have the necessary votes.

Most important of the three was a motion for the agenda presented by the two Likud-Liberal mavericks, Yitzhak Berman and Dror Zeigerman, calling for an immediate freeze on new settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The coalition, to avoid certain defeat, agreed that the Knesset hold a full-scale debate on the subject.

But on two other motions, coalition leaders miscalculated. By a vote of 51-50, the House decided to hold a debate on Gideon Patti's charge last week that Histadrut and Alignment leaders conspired some months ago to cause industrial chaos and thus bring down the government. This defeat could have been avoided if Minister without

Portfolio Ariel Sharon had come in to vote. But he chose to stay in the restaurant.

And by a vote of 46-41, the House decided to hold a debate on the appointment of a parliamentary committee of inquiry regarding last October's bank-share collapse.

Presenting the motion on a settlement freeze (to which Shinui MKs Amnon Rubinstein and Mordechai Virshubski added their names yesterday), Berman said that in view of the country's unprecedented economic crisis, the bulk of investment intended for settlements beyond the Green Line should be frozen.

Berman said that his colleagues in the Finance Committee estimated that over \$250 million was invested in the settlements in 1983. He said

that the freeze should be decided on without regard to the positions in principle of the different sides. Deputy Prime Minister David Levy refused to accept this. The settlements are indeed a subject of political debate between the government and the opposition, he said, and it is noteworthy that the opposition has not proposed freezing expenditure on settlements in the Jordan Valley or on the Golan Heights.

Even in Judea and Samaria, 40 of the 82 settlements are not in dispute, while 42 are. The latter are located in Samaria, in the south Hebron hills, and along the mountain ridge, Levy said.

He told Berman that he could not decently ignore the Likud's majority.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Begin may show for no-confidence vote

Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV — Former prime minister Menachem Begin may take part in next week's no-confidence vote if the coalition is in danger of going under, highly placed government sources assumed yesterday. The sources believed that if the coalition's survival depends on Begin, he will not let it down. They based the assumption on contacts with the former prime minister.

The possibility that Begin's vote may assume crucial importance for the coalition emerged yesterday when Minister-without-Portfolio Ariel Sharon failed to vote on two separate occasions in the Knesset.

Since it is not certain that either Tami or Sharon will support the government in the no-confidence vote, its position may be very precarious if Begin is absent from the House.

The government would survive the no-confidence vote if 60 coalition members vote with it, so it can afford to lose the three Tami votes and Sharon's, provided Begin is present. Without him, however, and without Tami and Sharon, it might well fall.

Begin has not appeared in public since his resignation from the premiership last summer.

Sources close to Begin say his health is improving, he is gaining weight and may soon end his seclusion.

Ilya reprimanded for 11 'minor' irregularities

Tai-Aluf Shlomo Ilya, the former head of the Judea and Samaria Civil Administration appeared before a senior disciplinary officer yesterday and was served with an official reprimand and a warning after being found guilty on 11 counts of "irregularities."

Ilya, who resigned his post following publication of the fact that the military police were conducting an investigation against him, appeared before Aluf Amos Yaron, OC Manpower Division. Yaron was recently promoted after being reprimanded by the Kahan commission for his role in the Sabra and Shatilla massacres.

The army advocate general recommended that Ilya appear before a disciplinary officer rather than a court because of the minor nature of the charges brought against him and because of his service record as a senior intelligence officer. In 1967 he lost an arm in action.

Civil administration officials were surprised at Ilya's resignation and said privately that the "irregularities" were so common they were something of a norm, not only among those who serve in the territories but throughout the army.

Ilya will remain in the army.



Malcolm Kerr (UPI telephoto)

that the assassin might still be hiding within.

All gates to the American University Hospital, a block from the campus, were also sealed off.

Kerr sided with the Arabs in their dispute with Israel, but his academic conscience restrained that feeling, Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Tel Aviv University's Shiloah Institute, said yesterday.

Rabinovich studied under Kerr for his Ph.D. at the University of California in Los Angeles. Kerr was fair to his Israeli pupils, the Shiloah head said at a symposium on Israel and Lebanon in Tel Aviv.

Kerr was worried about the dangers in Beirut and refrained from taking his family there.

The weather at major Swissair destinations

IN 1984	MIN	MAX	C F C F
AMSTERDAM	2	36	5 43
BRUSSELS	3	37	5 41
BUENOS AIRES	25	77	34 93
CHICAGO	16	31	12 50
COPENHAGEN	1	34	5 41
FRANKFURT	0	32	5 41
GENEVA	1	34	5 41
HONG KONG	4	39	9 48
JOHANNESBURG	15	59	18 84
LONDON	16	61	28 84
LISBON	8	43	14 57
MADRID	3	37	5 43
MONTREAL	18	0	10 14
NEW YORK	23	72	31 84
OSLO	3	37	5 43
PARIS	2	36	5 43
RIO DE JANEIRO	20	68	41 108
SAO PAULO	23	72	31 84
STOCKHOLM	2	36	5 43
TOKYO	1	34	5 41
TORONTO	12	54	22 72
VIENNA	2	36	5 43
ZURICH	4	38	9 48

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Rain will end during the day.

Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
Humidity	Min-Max	Min-Max
Jerusalem	100	3 - 7
Golan	100	1 - 6
Nahariya	98	10 - 16
Salad	99	2 - 6
Haifa Port	67	11 - 16
Tiberias	62	8 - 14
Nazareth	60	8 - 12
Afula	60	8 - 15
Shimon	89	4 - 9
Tel Aviv	69	10 - 14
B-G Airport	87	8 - 14
Jericho	98	10 - 15
Gaza	71	6 - 15
Beer-Sheva	28	7 - 10
Filat	30	11 - 18

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Acting President Menachem Begin yesterday with a delegation of Jewish writers from Spain and Latin America who arrived in Israel on Monday as guests of the Central Institute for Israeli-Latin American Cultural Relations. Savidor also hosted a dinner at the King David Hotel in honor of a delegation of Australian Labour parliamentarians at the end of their week's visit to Israel, and received South African Ambassador Mr. David de Villiers du Buisson.

New ambassador leaves for Portugal

Yossi Sarid, the new ambassador to Portugal, left yesterday for Lisbon to take up his post. Sarid, most recently responsible for Latin American affairs at the Foreign Ministry, was formerly Israel's ambassador to the UN in Geneva and deputy head of the Israeli delegation to the UN in New York.

In another development at the Foreign Ministry, Moshe Liba was seconded to head the Israel-Ibero-American Institute for Cultural Relations. Liba was formerly consul-general in Sydney, and before that was ambassador in Venezuela and Senegal.

Heavy snowfall

JERUSALEM POST REPORTER
KIRYAT SHMONA. — Heavy snow fell yesterday on the slopes of Mt. Hermon and in the northern Golan Heights. Snow in the Hermon ski area reached a depth of 70 centimetres. If snow continues to fall, the area will be opened to skiers this weekend.

Galilee yesterday was cold and foggy.

BEGIN

(Continued from Page One)

After Israeli diplomat Ya'acov Simantov was slain by Arab terrorists in Paris in April 1982, and Begin proposed bombing terrorist bases in Lebanon, Sharon said that if the PLO retaliated to the bombing, the IDF would have to drive into Lebanon and up to Beirut. Begin and Sharon said this while briefing opposition leaders in the Knesset.

One of the bitterest attacks on Sharon yesterday came from Teviya MK Gula Cohen. She said she would not be surprised if Sharon suddenly declared he was not involved in the Lebanon operation in any way. Nor would she be surprised if he declared he had nothing to do with settlement in Judea and Samaria.

Cohen said Sharon's rejection by the Zionist movement was a blow at his ego. The man would stop at nothing to satisfy his personal ambitions, she said. It was significant that before his rejection by the Zionist organization he had not complained about cabinet decisions on the war, she said. "He got a slap in the face, and now he is slapping back, but he does not care about the consequences of his retaliation," she said.

The foreign country Sharon was visiting on Friday, June 4, 1982, when the cabinet met, has never been named. It did not and still does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

In the Knesset, Alignment faction chairman Moshe Shalal has requested a debate on a motion calling for an inquiry into the decision to start the Lebanon war. Shalal also wrote to Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir, charging improper constitutional procedure.

HOME NEWS

Defence Ministry go-slow delays U.S. cooperation talks

By HIRSH GOODMAN
Post Defence Correspondent

Defence Ministry Director-General Menachem Meron has tentatively decided to postpone his departure for the U.S. due to labour strife at the ministry.

As part of the measures taken by



Menachem Meron

ministry workers for over a month, all trips abroad have been suspended. Meron, who was due to leave tonight for the first round of talks in Washington on strategic cooperation, decided not to antagonize the Staff committee by breaking the ruling.

Meron apparently hoped that due to the importance of the talks the committee would grant him and several other top officials in the

delegation permission to leave. When no such permission was forthcoming by yesterday morning, Meron announced he would postpone his departure.

Meron's decision was not linked to negotiations with the staff committee, as reported on the radio, but to the fact that he did not want to force other members of the delegation to break staff rules and so create tension with their ministry colleagues. No talks were held last night between Meron and the workers, but officials at the ministry said they hoped a compromise could be found this morning that would allow Meron to leave.

Meron was to have led an Israeli team scheduled to meet with American officials in Washington to lay the groundwork for higher level talks on the format of strategic cooperation agreed upon last November when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens visited Washington.

Billions of dollars for Israel depend on the Washington talks. Besides adjusting the aid package, the U.S. may permit stockpiling in Israel of military ordnance produced here for the U.S. This would generate work for the Israeli military industry, now faced with diminishing orders from the IDF due to cuts in local defence spending.

Bitter postal employees work to rule

JERUSALEM POST REPORTER

The country's 4,500 postal workers returned to their jobs yesterday, but worked "according to rule," slowing down operations. The government will ask the Jerusalem District Labour Court this morning for an injunction to stop go-slow action. The employees

said they were angry that wages for the three days they struck this week would be deducted from their pay.

In addition to the slowdown, they refused to provide services to the more than 300 postal agencies operating on a contractual basis around the country. These agencies remained open during the strike.

SHARON ON WAR

(Continued from Page One)

documented, though Sharon's role during the actual battle, when Operation Peace for Galilee was accelerated into full-scale warfare, remains less clear. There is no doubt, however, that the Lebanon Operation was Sharon's war.

Almost immediately upon taking over as defence minister after the 1981 election, Sharon put the army to work to map out two possible courses of action in Lebanon. Sharon defied the advice of military intelligence (as is stated by the Kahan Commission's findings on what happened at Sabra and Shatila) and decided to try to use military means to radically change the political structure of Lebanon. He also defied the professional advice of the head of the Mossad, who said that the goal was unattainable.

In nine months of cabinet discussions as to possible reactions to terror in Lebanon, Sharon consistently propagated a maximalist line, which at one stage, included possible military involvement in Tripoli. During the war itself, Sharon made many unilateral decisions that led to

escalation, including the decision to engage the Syrians and the attempt to gain control of the Beirut-Damascus Highway.

In late June, he was stopped at the last minute by Begin from sending the IDF into Beirut (Eitan said at the time that this would only be done "over his dead body") but could not be stopped from ordering a massive bombing raid on the city in early August, after the PLO had agreed to leave. This led Begin to make his famous statement that "sometimes I know what my defence minister is doing; and sometimes I don't."

"For Sharon to use and accept responsibility for this war is so mindboggling," a former senior officer said last night, "that I find it hard to react seriously. The man is simply proving, even to those who support him, that even the most malicious comments made about him were true."

BLOOD. — Sailors of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, in Haifa on leave, are to donate blood to Magen David Adom today.

COALITION DEFEATED

(Continued from Page One)

majority decision on the subject and act like an oppositionist. If he had new arguments to present, he should present them "in the body to which you belong — still — and I hope you'll continue."

Berman: "I raised my motion when a national unity government was under consideration, and I was defeated."

Levy: "The national unity government did not materialize because the Alignment insisted that we accept its view. If we had done that, it would have signified the bankruptcy of the government."

Berman: "The government deviated from the Likud's platform in the 1981 elections. The platform talks about strengthening and developing existing settlements; it does not say a word about new settlements."

Levy: "Then how come you retained your cabinet seat for over a year in a government that was establishing new settlements?"

Settlement would be continued in all parts of Eretz Yisrael, Levy declared. There will be budget cuts "in all areas," but not everything Israel does can be determined by economic considerations. That is an honoured principle of Zionism, he said.

Levy agreed that the Knesset hold a debate on the motion. Shlomo Hillel (Alignment) then moved that it go to committee. The motion was Hillel's way of getting the floor, and he later withdrew it. In his speech, he charged the government with having "liquidated more settlements than it established," taking into account settlements in Sinai and Moshavim within the Green Line.

By the time Hillel ended his speech, Levy knew that the coalition lacked the votes to defeat the motion. Absent from the chamber were three Tami members, Sharon, Speaker Menachem Savidor (who is acting president in the absence abroad of Chaim Herzog), and Deputy Speaker Meir Cohen-Avidov. Berman and Zeigerman of course, voted for their own motion. Yigael Hurvitz (Rafi) moved that the motion be struck from the agenda. He said he was sure that many in the Alignment are against a settlement freeze, although Yossi Sarid and others favour a return to the 1967 borders. Israel has known days of worse poverty, yet the tempo of new settlement was more rapid then, he said.

Before the vote, the three Teviya members, including Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman, walked out of the chamber, as did Rabbi Haim Druckman (Mitzvah).

Fifty-eight members of all parties voted for a plenary debate, and only three MKs voted against: Hurvitz, Pinhas Goldstein (Likud-Liberals), and Eitan Livni (Likud-Herut).

The motions on Patti's charges of a Histadrut-Alignment plot were presented by Ya'ir Tsaban (Alignment-Mapam), Yehuda Ben-Meir (National Religious Party) and Goldstein.

Their speeches, Patti's reply, and then "sub-motions" by three other Alignment speakers consumed about two hours and were marked by heckling and the trading of insults. Deputy Speaker Moshe Shalal found it necessary to call a dozen members to order. Some for a second time.

Michael Harish (Alignment) called Patti a liar, and Shalal ruled that the epithet was not unparliamentary. Patti was pressed by Alignment speakers to reveal who had been present at the alleged meeting, but he would only say that he had been told about it by "very reliable people, the most important people." His informants, he said, had been shocked at the plan of creating economic chaos and refused to give it their support.

Shimon Peres described Patti's charge — made in an interview in last Friday's *Yediot Aharanot* — "baseless slander." The only people present at the meeting were Patti, Moda'i and Sharon, Peres said.

Patti got back at the hecklers by calling them "boot-licking backbenchers" who do not know what is going on in their own party.

When voting time came, Shalal asked Hanan Porat (Teviya) to count the raised hands, together with an Alignment MK. But Porat refused, saying he wanted "no part in this *minshav letzim* (clowns' conference)."

The motion on a parliamentary inquiry commission into the collapse of the bank shares was presented last Wednesday by Haim Ramon (Alignment), but the vote was then postponed.

Deputy Minister Haim Kaufman opposed the motion, saying that the ministerial economic committee is already examining the subject. But Ramon said that meant the government is examining its own role, which does not make sense.



Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orad addresses an Israel Bonds delegation last night in Jerusalem, flanked by Bonds president, Yehuda Halevi.

Orgad: current woes no 'crisis,' just 'transition'

By AARON SITNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel's current economic travails are not a "crisis" but merely a "transition," Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orad said in Jerusalem last night.

Addressing a dinner of the International Israel Bond Leadership Conference at the Jerusalem Hilton, he stated: "Last October, the government began switching the direction of the economy, to do something to narrow the balance of payments deficit. Since then we have been hearing about the economic crisis here. I tell you it is not a crisis but only a transition."

"We have embarked upon a programme of controlled austerity, and in a year, we shall turn that into a programme of controlled rebirth of our economic growth."

Besides shrinking markets for Israeli exports, one of the main reasons for the deterioration of the economy has been Israel's "avaricious desire to maintain or even raise their standard of living," Cohen-Orad claimed. "I'm afraid we Israelis have just tried to swallow up too much in recent years, by wanting things that we could not afford economically when burdened

by a \$6 billion annual defence budget."

Describing to the overseas audience recent Treasury moves that have brought on labour unrest, strikes and other protests against his economic policy, Cohen-Orad added: "We have tightened our credit policy by making foreign exchange dearer, and we are considerably reducing Israel's disposable income. Looking at December's foreign trade figures, we have already noticed a narrowing of our balance-of-trade deficit."

Cohen-Orad was introduced by Bonds' International Chairman Sam Rothberg, who noted that Cohen-Orad is the 10th Israeli finance minister whom he has introduced since the Bonds Organization was established in 1951.

"Like Eliezer Kaplan, Pinhas Sapir, Yehoshua Rabinowitz and Simha Ehrlich, you have an enormous burden," Rothberg said. "You have inherited a \$21b. state budget, two-thirds of which must be spent on defence and debt service with only a third remaining for all other state expenditures. We pledge to help you shoulder that great burden."

Car licence fees to rise twice a year

POST ECONOMIC REPORTER

Vehicle licence fees are to be adjusted twice a year, in March and September, instead of once a year in August, the Knesset Finance Committee decided yesterday following a request from the Treasury.

SHARON MAY RESIGN

(Continued from Page One)

down by Shamir, and is actually out to bring down the government.

It is noted that Sharon planned to resign from the cabinet during the last days of the Begin government, but his move was pre-empted by Begin's resignation.

Sharon was encouraged by Shamir's accession to power. Having helped Shamir defeat the challenge of Deputy Premier David Levy, Sharon felt his reward would soon come in the shape of a cabinet portfolio.

But Shamir, under pressures, could hardly afford even the slightest cabinet reshuffle. Sharon's failure to win the not-too-prized Jewish Agency post served as a painful reminder to him that he remains as far in the political wilderness as he was a year ago.

In Sharon's address to Likud trade unionists on Tuesday, it is noted, he reminded his audience that at one time he had "to fight the government for every little addition to a new settlement. Now they battle each other to cut ribbons opening new settlements in Judea and Samaria, but I am hardly ever

invited," he complained, underlining his political isolation.

"One day they will compete with each other for credit for the Lebanon war, just as today they vie for credit on the settlements," he predicted.

Until that time, it is said by many in Herut, Sharon will pursue a private vendetta against his fellow party members, not caring if the whole coalition comes down.

Another school of thought also points to Sharon's Tuesday speech, in which he said that the "government must survive until the scheduled election date of November 1985. This is not the proper time for elections," he told his audience.

Sharon, say some in Herut, wants to play a meaningful role in the government, and only because of his frustration and impulsiveness, has been saying things that are bound to increase ill-feeling towards him. This has started a vicious cycle, with Sharon reacting by sulking and boycotting Knesset votes, this in turn only escalating the discord.

Whatever the case, Sharon is now entirely isolated.

No date for meeting between Hussein, Arafat

AMMAN. — Jordan's Information Minister Leila Sharaf said yesterday that no date has been set for a meeting between King Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on a joint approach to settlement of the Palestinian problem.

She also told a press conference that Jordan will take no action on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace plan because of America's failure to secure withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and a halt to Israeli settlements on the West Bank.

"We cannot go forward with the Reagan plan if these two preliminary conditions are not fulfilled," she said. "The ball is in the American and Israeli court."

Arafat, the PLO chairman, is widely expected here for talks with the king after the Islamic summit conference in Casablanca, Morocco, which was due to end yesterday.

He has not been to Jordan since April last year, when talks between the two men on the possibility of the king representing the Palestinians in

peace talks foundered because of opposition from radical PLO groups.

Arafat's deputy, Khalil Wazir (Abu Jihad), who is already in Amman, yesterday said the PLO and the Jordanian government will have to search for a common basis for political action.

"We have no other choice but to cooperate with each other because we both are the most involved in the problem and both share the Palestinian wound," said Wazir.

Wazir recalled that the talks last year broke down because of disagreement between Jordan and the PLO on the value of the Reagan plan. "We say no to the Reagan plan because it rejects the idea of a Palestinian state, rejects self-determination for the Palestinians and refuses to negotiate with the PLO," he said.

Asked when Arafat is expected in Amman in response to Hussein's invitation, Wazir said it will be after a scheduled West African tour that the PLO chairman will begin today. (Reuters, AP).

W. Bank leaders to Jordan to push talks

JERUSALEM POST REPORTER

Some 50 leading West Bank moderates, including several prominent businessmen and professionals, plan to leave for the Jordanian capital within the next few days to try to persuade PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and King Hussein to come to a political arrangement that will allow negotiations over the future of the area.

The West Bankers, who will be travelling individually, are ostensibly going to Amman to congratulate the new Jordanian government and if possible to see Hussein who was recently discharged from hospital.

However, several of the participants confirmed this week that they hope to convey the concerns of Palestinians living on the West Bank, and stress the urgent need for negotiations to be initiated in order to stop Israel's creeping annexation of the area.

NII juggles its figures to show more poor—Treasury

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

Treasury officials yesterday accused the National Insurance Institute of changing its statistical methods to show a large increase in the number of poor people.

According to Avraham Snapiri, deputy director for welfare affairs at the Treasury's Budget Division, the NII never before included recipients of old-age and survivors' pensions in its figures of persons living below the poverty line. But this year, the institute decided to include those groups without explaining why, he asserted.

In addition, the Treasury stressed that until last year, the NII considered the poverty line to be 40 per cent of the median gross wage. Under that definition, the number of persons living in poverty actually fell in 1982 by some 9,000, to total 144,300.

But, Snapiri said, the NII this year based its estimates on net wages, not gross salaries, and thus the number of people falling under the heading of poor increased to 220,000.

To this figure the NII added persons receiving old age and survivors' allowances, some 367,000 more.

The Treasury stressed that the NII figures did not take into account welfare services provided by the government to lower income groups. The NII thus did not in-

clude in its calculations the improvements in housing, health and living conditions of the people covered by its report.

Snapiri added that recent years have seen a constant increase in allowances to elderly persons and survivors — some 30 per cent in real terms over the 1975-82 period. At December 1983 prices, these allowances totalled IS15,700, at the end of 1982 compared with IS11,500 at the end of 1975.

The Treasury criticized the NII for using a definition of poverty which it had dismissed in the past. According to the ministry, the question is one of relative, not absolute standards of living.

Last year the NII itself stressed this. "If all the incomes in the country were to double in real terms, there would be no change in the number of persons receiving less than 40 per cent of the median income, although there would be a large increase in the standard of living," one official explained.

Responding to the critics, NII Director-General Daniel Azriel said that they are focusing on "marginal issues." "The institutes purpose is to warn of the widening gap in Israeli society," he said.

Azriel, a Tami activist, was appointed to this post by Social Affairs Minister Aharon Ozan, also Tami, after the latter dismissed the previous director, Rafi Roth, a professional civil servant.

Three killed near Dimona, 6 others hurt in accidents

JERUSALEM POST STAFF

BEERSHEBA. — Three persons were killed and two wounded in a head-on collision between a bus and a car yesterday afternoon near Dimona. The injured were taken by ambulance to Soroka Hospital here.

None of the bus passengers were injured. Police are investigating the causes of the accident. Three people were seriously injured in a head-on collision between a military truck and a pickup truck on the Plugot road near the entrance to Kiryat Gat. The military vehicle had

crossed into the opposite lane because of road work.

The injured were taken to Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot, where M. Vankin, the wife of the pickup driver, was reported to be in extremely critical condition.

In Eilat, a 67-year-old pedestrian was seriously injured when struck by the ambulance driver from the city. Nikola Gedalia was taken to Josephat Hospital, where it was reported that her life was in danger.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

MARY ARONOWSKY מרים

Children — Meir Aranne and family, Jerusalem
Shana Weiner and family, Brookline, Mass.
Menachem Aronowsky and family, Jerusalem
Adele Muskin and family, Rehovot

The funeral took place on 13 Shvat 5744, January 17, 1984. Shiva at the Aranne residence, 55 Hapigsa St., Jerusalem.

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of my dear husband, our father, brother and grandfather

WALTER DAUS

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, January 19, 1984, at 2 p.m. at Holon Cemetery. We shall meet at the new gate.

Mourners:
Wife: Lotte
Daughters: Miriam, and Amnon Leshem Yehudit, and Yitzhak Sharon
Brothers: Fritz, and Lotte Daus
Helinz, and Miriam Daus
Sister: Suzanne Daus
Grandchildren, and all the family

The World Jewish Congress mourns the death of

ARMAND KAPLAN

for many years Director of its Department of International Affairs.

The Israel Branch

We share the grief of

Mrs. Riva Freedman

on the sudden passing of her dear mother

LEA SCHREIBER ליה

and also extend sympathy to her entire family

Georg Jensen Jerusalem and Eshkar Group of Companies

We announce in deep sorrow the passing of our dear employee

LEAH BALABAN ליה

and extend our condolences to the family

Georg Jensen Jerusalem and Eshkar Group of Companies

1948 evacuees given land to build homes

Invitations will be sent.

Gromyko: No talks until U.S. pulls out missiles

STOCKHOLM. — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko denounced the U.S. yesterday and reasserted that the Soviet Union will not renew negotiations on intermediate-range missiles until the U.S. removes ones recently deployed in Western Europe.

Gromyko's speech to the conference on disarmament in Europe, which started on Tuesday, came just hours before he was to meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for the first time in four months.

Shultz and his NATO allies had hoped that Gromyko would indicate readiness to return to missile negotiations interrupted by the

Soviets on November 23. "Having started installation of its missiles, Washington has rendered negotiations pointless," Gromyko said. The first cruise missiles in Britain and Pershing 2 missiles in West Germany became operational at the end of December.

Gromyko also accused the U.S., which has troops in a four-nation peacekeeping force in Lebanon, of "sowing death and destruction there."

There is a danger that the "flames of conflagration" could spread from Lebanon throughout the Middle East and closer to Europe, he said.

Gromyko blamed Washington for the breakdown in U.S.-Soviet talks on limiting nuclear missiles in Europe, and said Moscow will never return to the Geneva talks unless NATO abandons its deployment of U.S. missiles.

He said "militarism, enmity and war hysteria" are being exported to Western Europe along with missiles.

There was no immediate comment from Shultz on Gromyko's speech, but other western ministers dismissed it as rhetoric and propaganda.

"It was cheap, unilateral propaganda and a very disagreeable

surprise," Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said.

Canadian External Affairs Minister Allan Rock said the speech would be offensive to the U.S.

But Swedish officials said despite the harsh tone of the Soviet statement Shultz and Gromyko ought to be able to get down to business in private.

Western diplomats said that parts of the speech dealing with the disarmament conference itself were more positive in tone though the Soviet approach differs widely from that of the U.S. and its allies. (AP, Reuters)

Weinberger: Soviets severely miscalculated in Afghanistan

LONDON (AP). — The Soviet Union is losing the war against Moslem guerrillas in Afghanistan, and this is undermining its strategy to win control of the Middle East oilfields, U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger was quoted as saying in *Jane's Defence Weekly*.

The magazine quoted him as saying in an interview in Washington that the Soviets have suffered "very heavy casualties" since they in-

tervened in Afghanistan in December 1979, and that this "is having some effect at home."

He did not mention any figures. But *Jane's* said he claimed the Soviets, with more than 100,000 men in the country, "control less of Afghanistan now than when they went in."

"In every way, it has been a series of military losses of a severe nature. They don't seem to have a plan, but

you don't use your own troops on this scale unless you have some strategic purpose in mind," Weinberger was quoted as saying. He noted that Afghanistan is of "enormous strategic importance" to the Kremlin.

This was underscored by "the fact that it is the first time they have used their own troops in a substantial way since World War II," he said. The Soviets have made

"serious miscalculations. They don't have nearly enough troops...to accomplish their purposes" which are apparently aimed at controlling the Middle East oilfields or denying the West access to them.

The Soviet intervention, he was quoted as saying, is an example of "Soviet expansionist history and demonstrates that they are willing to use military policy any time it meets their interests."

Report: 'Arabs suffer more from terrorism'

By HYAM CORNEY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — Arabs have suffered disproportionately at the hands of political hostage-takers, states a report on terrorism to be published here today.

The report, issued by the Institute for the Study of Conflict and entitled *Political Hostage-Taking in Western Europe*, notes that, "no other ethnic group has been seized in such numbers or with such frequency (as Arabs). One hundred and ninety-three Arabs have been taken hostage in 14 separate incidents. Arabs are also disproportionately more at risk from criminal hostage-takers."

"Threats and actual seizures have increased so dramatically in recent years that the Lloyd's kidnap and ransom insurance market has been prompted into developing a specific package of protection for Arab clients," adds the author of the report, Clive Aston, who has written

widely on the subject of terrorism and political kidnapping and who worked for the Lloyd's insurance brokers firm of Carroll and Carroll, which specializes in political risk insurance.

Between 1970 and 1982, there were 146 cases of hostage-taking for political reasons within the countries of the Council of Europe, the report said, plus 15 attempted incidents and a further 14 attempts planned but never executed. In all, 1,066 people were subjected to the use of such tactics, including 237 diplomats, almost 100 government officials, 49 prominent businessmen and 24 policemen or servicemen.

But by far the majority of those involved "were simply bystanders who happened to be on the scene of a terrorist attack or escape bid."

Responsibility for seizing hostages for political gain was claimed by 35 different groups or factions.

Topping the list of European countries where hostage incidents

took place in the period under review is Spain, with 47 incidents. France and Italy each had 26, the United Kingdom had nine. Top of the groups involved was the Basque separatist movement ETA with 38 incidents, followed by the Red Brigades 18 and Palestinian groups 15.

Aston notes that "despite increasing linkages between groups and the occasional 'revolutionary conference' they hold, there is no evidence to suggest all groups share a common long-term goal."

"Admittedly, a superordinate goal has bound diverse groups together for a specific action, such as the United Red Army attacking Lod airport in the name of the Palestinian revolution, but this is the exception rather than the rule."

"Even the PLO, who perceive themselves to be a government-in-exile of the Palestinian people, do not always display a commonality of purpose and have experienced fre-

quent outbursts of acrimony among its constituent factions, if not outright belligerency. Neither is there any reason to believe that a worldwide coalition or 'terror international' exists or is even feasible."

The Institute for the Study of Conflict was founded in 1970. It claims to have achieved "worldwide recognition both for its penetrating analyses and for its academic objectivity" because of its "striking relevance of its approach to the political problems of the contemporary world."

It does not receive any government grants, and apart from subscriptions, is supported by donations, trusts, foundations and corporations in Britain, the U.S. and other countries.

Among its aims is "to highlight the terrorist and subversive activities of political extremist organizations, whether or not they be Soviet-inspired, and to trace their international links."

Blast on Air France traced to sabotage

KARACHI (AP). — Government investigators said sabotage was the cause of the mid-air explosion on an Air France flight yesterday 30 minutes after taking off from here. Earlier, investigators had ruled

out sabotage and said a vinegar container had exploded in the cargo hold. The blast caused a sudden loss of cabin pressure in the jumbo jet and the plane returned to make an emergency landing.

Officials of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency and the airport security force said two Pakistani nationals and two other "Europeans," all passengers aboard flight 171, were arrested and would be interrogated. They declined to identify those detained.

The rest of the 244 passengers and 15 crew members were allowed to proceed to their destinations, the officials said.

The arrested men were reported to have boarded the Boeing 747 in Karachi, and were bound for Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

The officials said that in the baggage container of the plane they had found something they thought might be gunpowder but could not say for sure immediately. The force of the blast, they said, had damaged the container.

A charred suitcase recovered from the baggage hold belonged to one of the Pakistani nationals arrested, they said.

Kissinger report on Central America is 'recipe for disaster'

MEXICO CITY (Reuters). — Salvadoran left-wing guerrilla leaders have formally rejected a U.S. special commission report on Central America, saying it outlined "a recipe for disaster."

Members of the Salvadorean guerrillas' political-diplomatic commission, a body composed of military and political leaders, told reporters here that the report was contradictory in its recommendation for pacification of the area while also advocating more arms for U.S. allies.

Last week the U.S. commission, headed by former secretary of state Henry Kissinger, recommended the provision of \$8 billion in military and economic aid over the next five years and increased military support for the army of El Salvador fighting the guerrillas.

Corruption alleged in UK gov't agency

LONDON (AP). — Environment Secretary Patrick Jenkin is expected to face tough questioning from British legislators after the *Daily Express* reported yesterday the existence of a huge bribery and corruption scandal in the Government Property Services Agency.

The paper said the alleged scandal involves 200 civil servants in the agency and the disappearance of several millions of pounds and is to be investigated by a special parliamentary committee.

200-year-old doll sells for £12,000

LONDON (AP). — A record auction price for a doll of £12,000 (\$22 million) was paid in London on Tuesday for a wooden doll made in England about 1735.

"The doll has unusually well-carved ankles and calves — all the

experts say they are her finest points," said a spokeswoman for auctioneers Sotheby's.

The 43-centimetre figure of a girl, with real auburn hair, jointed limbs and in its original cotton, silk and satin clothes, came from Northern Ireland, and was bought by an anonymous dealer.

The first cabbage patch doll to be auctioned in Britain, complete with the birth and adoption certificates which made the toy all the rage in the U.S. last Christmas, raised £60.50 for a children's charity. Sotheby's said.

FRENCH MILITARY. — Some 87,000 French military personnel are currently stationed outside mainland France, Defence Minister Charles Hernu said yesterday in Paris.



Avital Shecharansky sits in a self-made cage outside the Stockholm conference building yesterday, to demonstrate for the release of her husband Anatoly from the Soviet Union. (UPI telephoto)

U.S.: Downed chopper was off course

WASHINGTON (AP). — A U.S. Army helicopter shot down in Honduras by Nicaraguan gunfire last week was "off course by a considerable distance," the Defence Department said on Tuesday, though a spokesman could not say whether it had strayed over the Nicaraguan border.

"But the fact remains that the pilot landed the craft safely in Honduran territory, and he was shot and

killed by Nicaraguan soldiers firing from the Nicaraguan side of the border," the spokesman said.

Daniel Ortega, a leader of the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua, said in Managua last week that Sandinista troops fired at the helicopter when it was in Nicaraguan air space, without knowing it was a U.S. aircraft. But Ortega said, "we cannot accept the version that the pilot was fired at on land."

Bonn parliament opens probe into Flick bribery charges

BONN (Reuters). — Public hearings began yesterday into West Germany's Flick affair, a corruption scandal which finally reached the top political ranks late last year when Economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff was formally charged with taking bribes.

The first witness due to appear before an all-party parliamentary committee was Hans Friderichs, former economics minister and now head of the Dresdner Bank, the second biggest bank in the country.

Friderichs, Lambsdorff and three others are awaiting a court decision on whether the case built against them during a two-year investigation justifies a trial, which would probably mean Lambsdorff's resignation.

The parliamentary committee hearings, a separate proceeding

scheduled to run well into the spring, was set up to determine whether the giant Flick industrial conglomerate used bribery in the late 1970s to obtain a major tax concession.

Friderichs, Lambsdorff and former provincial economics minister Horst-Ludwig Riemer, all members of the small Free Democratic Party, have denied accepting DM500,000 (IS21m.) in secret donations to their party from Flick executives. Friderichs, Von Brauchitsch and Manfred Nemitz.

There has been no suggestion that Lambsdorff used the money for personal gain.

The Flick company itself, though not charged in the affair, was recently ordered to pay back the entire DM450m. (IS195.) tax rebate it won in the late 1970s.

Teheran: Iran's troops move to deal final blow to Iraq

TEHERAN (Reuters). — A Teheran newspaper has indicated that Iran is preparing a fresh offensive in its 40-month-old war with Iraq.

The daily *Islamic Republic* said thousands of Iranian troops have left for the Gulf war front in the last few days "to deal the final blow at Iraq."

Recent statements from Iraq said the government believes a new Iranian offensive is imminent, with reports of an Iranian buildup on the southern front.

Teheran's *Islamic Republic* said in its Tuesday edition: "Thousands of courageous, God-seeking men of the Islamic army left for the war front from the various towns of East Azerbaijan Province during the last few days to deal the final blow to the mercenary regime of Zionist Saddam (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein)."

Teheran newspapers have also printed photographs of revolutionary guards and men described as volunteers heading for the battlefield over the past week.

Meanwhile, the speaker of Iran's parliament has told the Soviet ambassador that Moscow should not help invasions against Iran and has

criticized the Soviet Union for "basically unprincipled actions."

Teheran newspapers reported yesterday.

Iraq is currently staging trials of 101 members of the pro-Moscow Tudeh (Communist) Party who are alleged to have spied for the Soviet Union and plotted to overthrow the Islamic Republic. All face possible death sentences.

Iraqi warplanes yesterday shot down an Iranian jet in a dogfight over the northern sector of the Gulf war front, the official Iraqi News Agency said.

The agency quoted an Iraqi military spokesman as saying the clash took place after two Iranian jets attacked a residential area in Sulaimaniya Province this morning.

"Iraqi jets intercepted the two Iranian warplanes, and in the ensuing dogfight, one of the two was shot down and was seen falling in flames inside Iranian territory," he was quoted as saying.

Two Iraqi children were killed and 18 other people wounded in the Iranian attack, in which three houses were destroyed, the spokesman added.

Spoiled shrimp kills 14 in Holland

AMSTERDAM (AP). — The Netherlands death toll from contaminated Bangladesh shrimp has risen to 14, and about 100 other people are reported suffering from dysentery, a Health Ministry spokesman announced yesterday.

On Monday, an 81-year-old man died of dysentery after eating imported shrimp from Bangladesh contaminated with the shigella bacteria, which causes nausea, a high fever and diarrhea, the

spokesman said. Health authorities disclosed on Monday that 13 people aged 80 to 93 had died in the last week of December and early January. Eight of them lived in the same home for the elderly in the central Dutch city of Utrecht, where shrimp cocktails had been served on Christmas Day.

Other fatalities occurred in Amersfoort, 20 kilometres east of Utrecht, and in Amsterdam.

The Health Ministry issued a nationwide warning last Saturday that consumption of southeast Asian shrimp could be fatal. On Monday, the authorities clamped a 31-day ban on imports of processed shrimp from Bangladesh, Thailand, Burma and the Philippines.

Sports

Maccabi leave without Kramer

Post Sports Staff

TEL AVIV. — Maccabi Tel Aviv left yesterday for Italy to play their crucial game tonight against Lazio Roma, with only nine players in the squad. This incomplete complement of available players was caused by the fact that Joel Kramer and Maccabi Tel Aviv have parted company by mutual consent, halfway through the season.

It is no secret that Kramer did not fit into coach Zvi Sherf's concept of how Maccabi should operate, and he saw only occasional action throughout the season. He was almost completely benched in recent matches.

Kramer, 28, 2.02-metre former player with the Phoenix Suns, was signed on with a flourish by Maccabi at the beginning of the season. His contract is said to have been for \$70,000. He and Frank Brtkovic were expected to replace Earl Williams and Jack Zimmermann in the Maccabi set-up. But things did not work out as planned, and turned sour for Kramer.

No statement has been issued about how much he was paid to allow Maccabi to terminate the contract. The development appears to highlight the danger of Israeli clubs paying such high sums to foreign contract players.

Tonight's game will be televised live.

RESULTS IN OTHER GAMES: European Cup — Olimpia Milano 82, Chelsea Zagreb 69; Scavolini Piacenza 90, Paredes Czechoslovakia 75; Solent England 82, Saracens Cologne 78; Korac Cup — Red Star Belgrade 93, Modenese Le Mans 84.

SOCCER PREVIEW Season's match

By PAUL KOHN
Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Rarely, if ever, in the history of Israel league football has a soccer match built up to such tension as the clash on Saturday between Hapoel Tel Aviv and Bnei Jerusalem at the Bloomfield Stadium here.

The two clubs are level on points at the top of the first division, Bnei claiming first place thanks to a 26 to 11 goal ratio compared to the Tel Avivians' 21 to 7. Before the start of the season Hapoel were second favourites after last season's champions Maccabi Netanya to win the league title. But only Bnei's tactical supporters believed that Bnei would be where they are today, after 13 league matches.

Bnei have produced some of the most attractive soccer seen this season, all the more remarkable because they have played 12 of their games outside of Jerusalem as a result of the disciplinary steps against the club. This punishment was imposed after Bnei Jerusalem played against Hapoel Tel Aviv in a cup match at the Bloomfield Stadium last season. It is to be hoped that there will be no repetition of crowd unruliness tomorrow.

Bnei, led by Uri Melulian, Danny Mende and Eli Okun are in top form at the moment. But Hapoel have not been at their best in their most recent games. Sidi, with Moshe Shal, Shaiy Lory, Gil Haim, Gadli Melchior and Mende, are in the lineup, they are a powerful combination. Home ground advantage may also give them an edge over the more technical team from Jerusalem.

The same must be said of the early season success of Bnei Jerusalem and Maccabi Tel Aviv. The teams look lively and are in excellent form. The teams are playing in a way that suggests they are enjoying the game. The teams are playing in a way that suggests they are enjoying the game.

Sportoto tips
TEL AVIV. — Five punters got all 13 results right in last week's Sportoto football pool each winning IS2,379.00. Twelve results were worth IS24,000, those with 11 right collecting IS1415 and ten getting IS160 for their effort.

With the return of league soccer Sportoto returns to their big money prizes, promising a minimum total payout of IS40 million after the weeks games.

Shimon vs. Mac. TA
Bnei vs. Hapoel
Netanya vs. Hapoel
Lod vs. Ashdod
Mac. Haifa vs. Yehuda
Yehuda vs. Mac. PT
Bnei Yehuda vs. Ashdod
Hapoel TA vs. Bnei J'ha
Hapoel PT vs. Hapoel Haifa
Bnei Ramla vs. Bnei Haifa
Mazraeh vs. Kir Saba
Mazraeh vs. Ashdod
Hadera vs. Hadera

Flying Bird

NEW YORK (AP). — Larry Bird, 33 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds, led Boston Celtics to a 123-111 victory over Kansas City Kings. Boston improved its league-best record to 30-9.

Philadelphia ended Detroit's six-game win streak by defeating them 121-105. Detroit had 34 points and 16 rebounds. Philadelphia had 26 points and 12 rebounds.

Elsewhere in the NBA, Magic Johnson led the Lakers 114; Golden State 123; San Diego 108; Washington 108; Phoenix 107; Los Angeles 106; New York 105; Milwaukee 104; Dallas 103; Boston 102; Kansas 101; Cleveland 100; Chicago 100; Minnesota 99; Indiana 97; Philadelphia 96; Detroit 95; New York 94; Los Angeles 93; Utah 92.

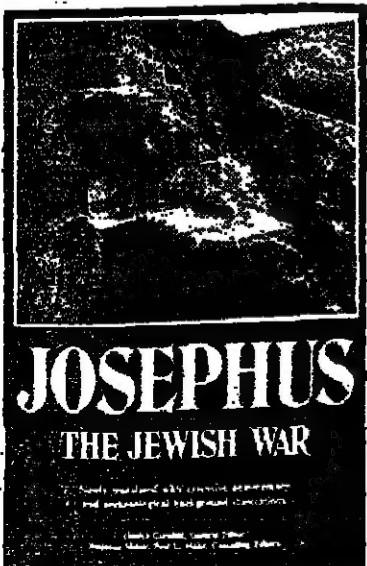
GRAYS BUSINESSMAN'S SQUASH LEAGUE RESULTS SATURDAY, Jan. 14, 1984

South Africans Airways	3	—	Avi Marble Coverings	3
Dienhauser Travel	3	—	Burak Sportscenter	3
Anglo-Saxon	3	—	Torin of Israel	3
Burger Ranch	3	—	Dunlop-Atar and Sons	3
Sabra-Sengren	3	—		

FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

Burger Ranch	62	Dienhauser Travel	62
Torin of Israel	60	Burak Sportscenter	60
Avi Marble Coverings	51	Anglo-Saxon	51
Dunlop-Atar and Sons	50	Sabra-Sengren	49
South Africans Airways	49		

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The public is invited to a lecture by

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Rector of the University of Iceland
"How Inflation was Curbed: The Icelandic Experience May — November, 1983"

Chairman: PROF. HAIM BEN-SHAHAR

Incumbent of the Extraordinary Chair in Economic Policy
on Sunday, January 22, 1984 at 7:00 p.m. in Auditorium 01
The Chaim Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies
Tel Aviv University Campus, Ramat Aviv

Entrance through Gate No. 1

Trading called 'limp, lacklustre'

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By MACABEE DEAN

TEL AVIV — Trading continued to limp along yesterday in a lacklustre mood.

Although the total turnover did increase a bit, from 15,242 million (about \$2m.) on Tuesday to 15,247m. yesterday (about \$2.1m.), most of the trading, some 64 per cent, was in the commercial banking sector.

And even here, the overwhelming majority of trading was in the "arrangement" shares — those whose offer equivalent price the government has guaranteed, and will redeem in two, four, five and six years.

If the situation is looked at from the angle of trading in the "free" shares, those which do not receive any support (or at least no visible support), their turnover was only \$35m. (or about \$550,000).

Among the "arrangement" shares, two of the main ones, IDB ordinary and Hapsoim, were in demand, but their price did not rise. Leumi, which has risen in the past few days, failed to do so yesterday after offering outpaced bids to buy.

Interestingly enough, those banks which did not join the "arrangement" did much better. Although First International and PBI remained steady, despite offers to sell, Maritima was in demand. Maritima 0.1 rose by 4.7 per cent (or 13 points) to become "bought only", while Maritima 0.5 rose by 10.1 per cent (11 points).

Donot 1 also rose by 7.2 per cent (15 points).

In general, the market was mixed, although there was a tendency to rise. The general index rose by 0.28 per cent, but without commercial banks the rise was only 0.21 per cent.

The various categories rose or fell as follows:

Commercial banks, plus 0.24 per cent; mortgage banks, minus 0.32 per cent; financial institutions, plus 0.38 per cent; insurance companies, minus 0.78 per cent; trade and utilities, minus 0.13 per cent; land development shares were up by 0.66 per cent; industrial, plus 0.10 per cent; oil shares, minus 2.37 per cent.

The above percentages seem to indicate that the market is rising, if only slightly. But such nominal rises should be considered against the background of the nominal charge of the shekel. The representative rate of the dollar was \$18.19 on Tuesday, it was \$18.68 yesterday, or a nominal increase of 64 agora, or about 0.33 per cent.

Since the "nominal" rate of the shekel is really a devaluation, all the categories would have to rise by

about 0.55 per cent just to remain at the same dollar value.

Thus, nearly all categories lost in real value, for they failed to rise by 0.55 per cent.

Despite the rises or falls in the categories, there were plenty of shares which did manage to rise in real terms. Some 45 rose by five or more per cent (of which seven were "bought only"), but 37 fell by five or more per cent (of which eight were "bought only").

Of the eight wild swingers, those shares which rose or fell by about ten per cent in nominal terms, only two rose, while six fell. Maritima Bank (as noted) rose by ten per cent, as did Tadea. But ten per cent falls were registered for Afrieh Insurance, Cold Storage, Caesarea, Terol and Delek, while T.G.L. fell by 11.5 per cent.

As for index-linked bonds, most were steady, although now and then a few rose by up to 1.5 per cent. Bonds traded in foreign currency (such as Gilboa), were steady, with some rising by up to 1.5 per cent. The turnover in bonds was \$560m. or about \$4.8m.

Teva Pharmaceuticals states that its annual statement, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1983, which was distributed on December 15, 1983, as "unaudited" has since been audited, with the identical results.

Leumi	1,450	15,541m.	n.c.
Hapsoim	2,180	15,393m.	n.c.
IDB	3,349	15,247m.	n.c.
Shares traded:			
Convertible:	15	8.4m.	
Bonds:	15,800	4m.	

Saudi Arabia's lower oil income may slow arms race

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT

Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV — Saudi Arabia's foreign currency reserves are enough to cover only one year's imports and that fact may slow down the Middle East arms race, Tel Aviv University experts said here yesterday.

Speaking at a symposium for foreign correspondents sponsored by the Dayan Centre for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Prof. Eliahu Kanovsky estimated that the Saudi reserves totalled some \$125 billion. This includes Saudi investments in U.S. government bonds and shares in major banks.

But the figure also includes loans to some Arab governments which are not likely to return them, so the reserves in the "real sense" amount to only some \$100b., he said.

Last year Saudi Arabia imported goods and services totalling some \$95b. The balance of payments for 1983 showed a \$25b. deficit, Kanovsky estimated. Official figures are not out yet, he said.

The expert said Saudi Arabia has already delayed payments to some foreign contractors, and the American ambassador in Riyadh has made representations on behalf of the American builders.

Bank of Israel exchange rates

January 18, 1984	IS
U.S. dollar	116.83
British sterling	164.58
German mark	41.95
French franc	13.72
Dutch guilder	36.96
Swiss franc	52.22
Swedish krona	14.53
Norwegian krona	14.84
Danish krone	11.459
Finnish mark	19.657
Canadian dollar	93.565
Australian dollar	105.32
South African rand	93.388
Belgian franc (10)	20.341
Austrian schilling (10)	58.894
Italian lire (100)	68.344
Japanese yen (100)	49.981
Yen (100)	128.51
Spanish peseta (100)	72.928
Jordanian dinar	308.43
Lebanese lira	20.140
Egyptian pound	103.10

In contrast with the past, Saudi Arabia did not even threaten an oil embargo when Israel invaded Lebanon, he added.

The drop in revenues from exports — from \$111b. in 1981 to \$73b. in 1982 and an estimated \$46b. last year will have several impacts on the Middle East.

Prof. Itamar Rabinovich anticipated a slowdown in the arms race. Alluding to the theory that the problem of acquiring arms was essentially monetary, he said that when there was a possibility the U.S. would refuse the sale of its advanced Warrior and Command System (AWACS) planes — Britain offered its version.

Other Arab governments which have benefited from the Saudi boom will also be worse off.

Kanovsky said Jordan had been a major beneficiary of the oil boom, but grants to it had been halted, to some \$600 million last year. This accounts for a fairly large part of that country's income, its Gross National Product is \$4b.

Moreover, Jordan last year extended Iraq a \$65m. loan and announced a \$125m. loan for this year, ostensibly to pay for past purchases in Jordan and for further purchases.

Jordan will suffer also because its nationals working in Saudi Arabia will have less money to send home.

Kanovsky predicted that the authorities in Saudi Arabia and countries which benefitted from its aid will be reluctant to force a reduction in the general standard of living. They will be reluctant, he said, to give their citizens room for complaints against the elite's standard of living. Expected social unrest could be expected.

Raises — Bella

daughter of May Raises, formerly of Tel Aviv, niece of Ernest Rosanova of Melbourne, Australia.

Would any person who knows of her whereabouts please contact:

National Trustees Company,
95 Queen Street,
Melbourne 3000, Australia.
Attention: Mr. J. Briggie

Canadian winner of \$11m. lottery stays silent

TORONTO (Reuter).

Somewhere in Ontario someone is a multi-millionaire — but the winner of North America's largest-ever tax-free lottery prize has still not come forward.

Lottery mania hit Canada over the last two weeks, as millions tried to scoop the jackpot in the national lottery, in which players must name six numbers between one and 49.

Last Saturday night, the big build-up ended when computers showed that one lucky ticket purchased in Ontario, Canada's most populous province, had the right six numbers and scooped the 11 million dollar U.S. prize.

Under lottery rules the winner's name has to be published, but three days after the big result, no one has come forward yet to claim the giant prize.

A lottery official said "I feel very much like the person who threw a party and the guest of honour didn't come."

The big winner is losing about U.S.\$3,000 a day in interest, but the official suggested that he may be trying to get his life in order before the full glare of publicity hits him.

Record advance on London exchange

LONDON (AP).

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The brokers attributed the bull market to general optimism about the strength of the world economic recovery.

"With the Japanese stock market climbing sharply and signs that the U.S. market will break out on the upside soon, everyone is just buying," said one broker.

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"EURO PAZ", 1 UNIT	414.2362	418.3996
S.D.R.	120.2850	121.4936

FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES FOR 100

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS	BANKNOTES
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	116.8409	117.4091
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	163.5741	165.2181
GERMANY	MARK	41.2640	41.6788
FRANCE	FRANC	13.5053	13.6411
HOLLAND	GULDEN	36.6974	37.0668
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	51.8932	52.4148
SWEDEN	KRONA	14.4843	14.6248
NORWAY	KRONE	14.7763	14.9249
DENMARK	KRONE	11.4006	11.5152
FINLAND	MARK	19.5658	19.7625
CANADA	DOLLAR	93.0232	93.5874
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	104.7876	105.8407
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	93.0671	94.0025
BELGIUM	FRANC	20.2363	20.4296
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	38.5301	39.1184
ITALY	LIRE	68.0099	68.8924
JAPAN	YEN	49.8197	50.8227

FORWARD RATES:

1 month	1.0000	2 months	1.0000
3 months	1.0000	6 months	1.0000
9 months	1.0000	12 months	1.0000

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Company	Volume	Change	% change
OHK	786	9	+0.7
Maritima 0.1	207	10	+4.7
Maritima 0.5	119	1672	+13.4
N. American 1	3312	53	n.c.
N. American 5	2081	86	+3.3
N. Am. op 1	1123	84	+7.5
Donot 1	123	45	+36.6
Donot 5	44	613	+13.9
Donot sc 2	162	2	+1.3
First Int'l 5	199	327	+16.4
FIBI	189	80	+42.3

Company	Volume	Change	% change
IDB	75870	745	+0.9
IDB 0.1	3349	10	+0.3
IDB 0.5	3300	10	+0.3
IDB p A	30300	10	+0.3
IDB op 11	2000	120	+6.0
Unit 0.1	4312	128	+2.9
Discount B r	4302	6	+0.1
Discount A r	4350	36	+0.8
Discount C	2980	16	+0.5
Discount B on	510	86	+16.9
Mizrahi r	1371	660	+48.1
Mizrahi b	1370	32	+2.3
Mizrahi op 11	2010	10	+0.5
Mizrahi op 12	815	97	+11.9
Mizrahi on 5	11400	10	+0.1
Mizrahi on 9	593	77	+12.9
Hapsoim p	2929	2	+0.1
Hapsoim r	2180	1908	+87.5
Hapsoim b	2180	370	+17.0
Hapsoim on 1	8130	3	+0.0
General A	5600	27	+0.5
General op 8	12100	2	+0.0
General op 9	5000	6	+0.1
General op 10	4212	5	+0.1
General on 7	271	193	+71.2
Leumi 0.1	1450	3734	+257.5
Leumi on 1	1882	37	+2.0
Leumi op 11	510	477	+93.5
Finance Trade 1	1920	1	+0.0
Finance Trade 5	989	1	+0.0
Finance Trade op 5	530	1	+0.0

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Adanir 0.1	761	7	+0.9
Gen. Mortgage	1275	1	+0.1
Carmel r	1530	3	+0.2
Carmel deb	655	10	+1.5
Carmel deb	135	195	+144.4
Sharon tradit	950	7	+0.7
Convertible	840	9	+1.1
DevMortgage b	960	30	+3.1
DevMortgage r	193	1	+0.5
DevMortgage op	193	1	+0.5
Mishkan r	5685	8	+0.1
Mishkan b	3465	1	+0.0
Independence	1650	6	+0.4
Tefahot p r	700	73	+10.6
Tefahot deb	316	35	+11.1
Tefahot deb 2	173	87	+50.3
Jaysour r	271	23	+8.5
Jaysour s	296	16	+5.4
Jaysour op	71	37	+52.1
Mezur r	174	193	+111.4

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Shilton r	108	146	+135.2
Shilton op B	701	1	+0.1
Agriculture A	2985	1	+0.0
Agriculture C	8650	1	+0.0
Leumi Ind b	747	1	+0.1
DevMortgage r	6166	1	+0.0
DevMortgage b	20490	1	+0.0
DevMortgage op	12900	1	+0.0
DevMortgage cl	12700	1	+0.0
DevMortgage d	11576	1	+0.0
DevMortgage	4976	1	+0.0
Contractors	91	19	+20.9
Tourism	9730	1	+0.0
Lease 0.1	190	110	+58.4
Clal Lease 0.1	137	32	+23.3
Clal Lease deb	645	18	+2.8

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"With the Japanese stock market climbing sharply and signs that the U.S. market will break out on the upside soon, everyone is just buying," said one broker.

Company	Volume	Change	% change
Grail Zohar 1	300	1	+0.3
Grail Zohar 5	130	10	+7.7

Ari Rath
Editor and
Managing Director

THE JERUSALEM
POST

Erwin Frenkel
Editor

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Shvat 15, 5744 • Rosh-Thani 15, 1404

Searching for alibis

MINISTERIAL responsibility is a heavy burden, and there seems to be a massive flight from it in Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet. Unlike Menachem Begin, who resigned his premiership after witnessing the mess he had wrought, ministers are merely seeking, disingenuously, to dissociate themselves from policies, both domestic and foreign, that have brought the nation to the brink of disaster.

Less than a week ago the minister of industry and trade, Gideon Palti, a loyal supporter of Yoram Aridor's profligate "proper economics" when it was creating a facade of false prosperity, uncovered the source of the resultant economic turmoil in a conspiracy by the Histadrut's Elders of Zion to topple the government. And now Minister-without-Portfolio Ariel Sharon, the former defence minister and true father of the war in Lebanon, is trying to wriggle out of his responsibility for that unspeakable fiasco by claiming that he was not even in the country when the ground was being prepared for Operation Peace for Galilee in early June 1982.

Mr. Sharon's "proof" is that he was not — indeed could not have been — a party to the cabinet's decisions to bomb Beirut and to call up the reserves immediately after the shooting of Ambassador Shlomo Argov in London.

A more pathetic argument could hardly have been devised. The communications minister, Mordechai Zipori, called it the joke of the year. Geula Cohen, the like-minded Tehiya parliamentarian, poured scorn on Mr. Sharon's invention.

The former chief of staff, Rafael Eitan, recalled that Mr. Sharon was present at the crucial meeting on Saturday night that decided on the drive into Lebanon the following morning. And Mr. Begin himself, emerging momentarily from his retirement, reminded Mr. Sharon that there was, in any case, such a thing as collective cabinet responsibility.

Indeed a kind word for Mr. Sharon could not be heard from any quarter yesterday, even among political friends.

Criticism, however, is not likely to divert Mr. Sharon from his appointed course, which evidently leads through self-exculpation to the winning back of a cabinet portfolio. He is determined, so it appears, to re-establish himself at the centre of the national arena, after a period of enforced idleness caused by the Kahan Commission's findings.

Last week a valiant effort, made by the premier himself, to cleanse Mr. Sharon of the stain of Sabra and Shatilla ended in failure. The minister-without-portfolio was not approved as the Jewish Agency's aliyah chief, which post might have served him — although this was not necessarily Mr. Shamir's own expectation — as a jumping board to greater heights within the cabinet. But the goal is clear. Eventually Mr. Sharon hopes to expunge, "by democratic means," the Kahan Commission's report. In the meantime he will try to rub out the record of his responsibility for the Lebanese war.

And why should he not? He is, after all, member of a cabinet that is made up of guilty men, posing as innocents and searching for alibis. His argument in his own defence may be especially brazen and absurd, but it is not unique.

Happy New Year for the trees

THE RAINS have begun very late this year, and Tu B'Shvat is much earlier than in the previous three years: this combination of circumstances is creating something of an illusion that the festival is taking place out of season. In fact, the Jewish National Fund, the body responsible for the planting and husbandry of Israel's forests, is still confident that it can plant four million new trees by the end of the rains.

According to Jewish tradition, there are four New Years each year — the calendary, the monarchic, the budgetary (for calculation of tithes), and the arboreal. It is this last, the New Year for Trees, that we celebrate today with the planting of saplings all over the country.

The practice of the JNF is to place seeds in small boxes of earth 12 months before they are due to be planted in the ground as saplings. For six months they are irrigated every day; for the next three months, three times a week; for the last three months, once a week. By the end of this programme they are tiny little saplings, which can be planted in the ground as soon as the first heavy rains have filled the soil with moisture.

From then on the little trees are considered to have come of age, to be mature enough to battle for existence and to survive without irrigation, relying on winter rainfall to carry them through the long, dry summer. Despite the shortage so far this season, there is still a prospect that sufficient rain will fall for this purpose.

Our forefathers cherished trees, and Genesis records that Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba. From the very beginning of the modern Israeli renaissance, Jews have planted trees in this land. The JNF points out with justifiable pride that it has planted a total of 163 million trees on an area of 650,000 dunams within the Green Line.

In addition, it has redeemed and cared for 450,000 dunams of natural forest. This is indeed a remarkable record of which the nation and the Jewish people can be very proud.

Every Israeli, and our friends abroad, will agree with the lovely lines of the American poet, Joyce Kilmer: "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree." So it is with deep sincerity that we wish the trees of Tu B'Shvat a Happy New Year.

Slow-as-molasses electoral system

By NETANEL LORCH

ALL MEMBERS of parliaments everywhere are about as keen on early elections as turkeys are on an early Thanksgiving, or chickens on a Yom Kippur in May. Reluctance to go to the polls before it becomes absolutely necessary is in the very nature of the system; even if one's party's chances look very rosy indeed, those chances may change by the time election day rolls around.

Moreover, the party's gains may not presage good fortune for the individual MP concerned. Often a former MP will witness his party's victory from the sidelines — his personal defeat made more poignant by virtue of his party's triumph. Thus, any MP will think twice before raising his hand to vote for dissolution of parliament; and in Israel, unlike in many other parliamentary democracies, only the House can dissolve itself; neither the president nor the prime minister has the power to do so.

Dissolution is a normal piece of legislation. Since so far it has always been presented as a private member's bill, it requires a favourable majority in four plenary readings, plus two committee stages. In short, those who have second thoughts have plenty of time to repent.

Early elections may become inevitable. Such a contingency may be upon us soon, and it would be advisable to prepare for it now.

In Israel, one of the negative aspects of early elections (from a national, not from a party viewpoint), is the unconscionably long time it takes from dissolution to the formation of a new government. The second Knesset was dissolved on April 12 1951, with elections taking place over three months later, on July 30. Another three weeks passed before the new House was convened, and then coalition building officially began. In 1961, it was even worse. Almost five months passed between dissolution and elections. In 1977 and 1981, it still took well over five months from dissolution to the convening of the new Knesset.

In Great Britain and other countries following the Westminster model and the constituency electoral system, the entire process,

from dissolution through elections to convening a new legislature, will normally not take more than one month, and since no coalitions are required, a new cabinet is constituted immediately thereafter.

In Israel at present the prospect of having a lame duck government for six months seems disastrous. Drifting is the last thing this country needs. Thus, it is imperative that measures be taken to cut the interval to a bare minimum; and such measures should be taken now in preparation for the eventuality of early elections.

IF AND WHEN dissolution is decided upon it will be too late, since the new date for elections is a legally required component of the dissolution bill.

Why then this inordinately long interval in Israel? Some of the reasons are connected with our electoral system — pure proportional representation, which requires the presentation and approval of national lists of candidates. Here there may be a potent argument for changing the system, but this writer has no illusions that such a change could be achieved at the present time or at short notice. Given the present system, several important economies of time, effort, and ultimately also of money can be obtained by changing certain administrative arrangements and outdated legal provisions.

The first concerns the electoral register. Under the present law, it is prepared once a year, on the 15th of Av, and includes all persons who have been Israeli citizens, and registered on the preceding 1st of Nissan, and whose 18th birthday is no later than the beginning of the registry year.

There are detailed provisions for exhibiting the register, for appealing against exclusion from or inclusion in the register, or in the electoral roll for a given polling station, for adjudicating such appeals, and for appealing against such adjudication.

In the age of the computer, and the telephone (providing it works!), these provisions should be fundamentally changed. The Central Elections Committee is made up of

representatives of political parties and is presided over by a justice of the Supreme Court. If it or the minister of interior are unable or unwilling to initiate such a change, an outside body should take the initiative.

The principle should be simple: all registered citizens of Israel who will be 18 on or before election day, should be entitled to vote. The Electoral Rolls should be continuously revised and kept up to date. Anyone with doubts or queries should be able to receive replies by calling a given telephone number, and the appeals machinery should be in action continuously, regardless of election dates.

Political parties, which are the obvious interested parties, receive ample financing from the state to maintain a permanent staff, whose task it might be to act as watchdogs. The system should be programmed so that once the Knesset sets the election date, all the consequent notifications could be electronically produced.

Complete electoral rolls — a most important raw material for political parties, should no longer be exhibited; they should only be made available at a price. Since people's ages can easily be predicted, there is no need to wait until a certain cut-off date to register them. Obviously, a cut-off date for new immigrants must be provided.

Another way to save time and money would be to introduce electronic, or at least mechanized, voting. Rather than printing millions of ballots, and ensuring that a sufficient supply of each list's ballot is available at any time during election day at each and every one of the thousands of balloting stations, with the possibility of abuse, simple mechanized devices (well-tried elsewhere) or more sophisticated electronic ones should be introduced.

An abrupt changeover to electronic or even mechanical voting machines may not be feasible, or even advisable. But let us at least make a start in soldiers' voting, for instance. The preparatory work for such an experiment was done years ago; all

Dry Bones



that is missing now is the political decision to try it out.

Another seemingly minor matter: with a relatively simple programme, people should be able to vote wherever they may be on election day, without having to return home, with adequate precaution against someone voting more than once.

THEN THERE is the provision concerning the 100 days; judges, senior government officials, and regular army officers who wish to be candidates are required under the law to resign at least 100 days before election day. The reason for this provision is obvious: to avoid the possibility of exploiting the candidate's position to gain political advantage for himself or for his party, or the impression that such advantage has been sought or obtained.

This is not the place to discuss the propriety of such a provision; in the case of early elections it can certainly be dispensed with. Let such candidates go on leave on the day the lists with their names are presented, their resignation becoming automatically effective on election day.

There remains the weighty matter of the composition of lists, their presentation to, and approval by, the Central Elections Committee and the eventual appeal against that committee's decision. Every stage in this process takes time, and there are reasons why lists must be

presented not later than 35 days before elections. But even here pruning is possible. If there is a rigid time limit, political parties will undertake preliminary steps even before the final vote on dissolution; and automatic review procedure by the Supreme Court when the committee rejects a list could save a few days. Of course, if electronic voting is introduced, the time for printing and distributing ballots can be saved.

This is not an exhaustive list of all the time-consuming elements in Israel's electoral process. Waiting for sailors' votes; counting soldiers' votes; completing and publishing results — all of these take time and should be looked at closely with a view towards simplification and speeding up.

The objective should be to hold early elections no later than 35 days after dissolution; Article 35 of Basic Law: Knesset should be amended accordingly. To the present text: "The Law on the dissolution of the Knesset will include a provision concerning the date of elections for the following Knesset," should be added: "not later than 35 days after the law has been adopted."

I am under no illusions that such a decision will easily be taken by politicians, and they will most certainly require prodding by concerned citizens.

The writer is a former Clerk of the Knesset.

TOURISM IS NOT ALL

By HARRY WALL

identity. Indeed, one has to ask how much more assimilation there would be in America were it not for the efforts of the organized Jewish bodies.

WHEN MR. SHARIR writes that organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) are outdated and no longer effective, he displays a woeful lack of knowledge of the functions of the organized American Jewish community. The ADL, for instance, not only continues to promote the right of religious and cultural pluralism in America for Jews and other minorities, but also allocates much of its resources to defending the right of the State of Israel to live in peace and normalcy in the community of nations.

Jewish organizations have learned to adjust themselves to the post-Holocaust brand of anti-Semitism. Jews are now threatened less by cross-burners or gangs vandalizing Jewish property than by unmitigated anti-Zionism. Today's reality suggests the latter to be of greater consequence to the security of the Jewish people, and Jewish

organizations have refocused their efforts accordingly.

Mr. Sharir is correct when he points out that less than 1 per cent of Israel's budget is raised through American Jewish philanthropy. But what about the over \$20 billion Israel has received in foreign aid since the U.S. since it was established? It would be nice to believe that this aid reflects solely an enlightened American attitude toward Israel as a strategic and political ally. But in truth, without a vigorous and comprehensive effort by American Jewry, it is doubtful that Israel would be the recipient of such largesse.

When it comes to developing activities to strengthen the bonds between U.S. Jewry and Israel, there is no disagreement. I am, however, puzzled by the minister's statement that the only person in the Jewish establishment who understands this is Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yehuda Halevi, an Israeli who currently heads the Israel Bonds organization. I would think that Mr. Sharir is aware of the countless missions to Israel, under the auspices of American Jewish organizations, that aim to bring Israelis and

American Jews closer together. Or the multitude of conferences, summer programmes for youth, symposia and publications that are dedicated to fostering closer ties between the two Jewish communities.

MR. SHARIR'S prescription for curing the ills of American Jewry is a massive dose of Jewish tourism to Israel. It's true that only some 15 per cent of American Jews have visited Israel. But is that the fault of the American Jewish organizations, virtually each of which has some form of organized tour programme to Israel? Rather, I would suggest the minister examine the costly facilities under his own purview — tourism — which have made a visit to Israel a luxury that relatively few Americans, Jews or gentiles, can afford.

The minister believes that American Jewish organizations hamper Jewish tourism by depicting Israel's negative aspects in order to promote their own fund-raising. It is my impression that, notwithstanding Israel's economic woes, Jewish organizations in America, which see themselves as *hasbara* emissaries, emphasize the

positive aspects of Israel. In fact, today's American Jewish fund-raisers realize that the most effective results come from focusing on what has been achieved, in science, industry, and culture, rather than on what has not.

Mr. Sharir concludes that Israel must fight the American media for dwelling on war and security in its coverage of Israel. Such a strategy is ill-conceived and can only damage Israel's position further. It is not the media that created the abnormal situation in which Israel must live — a hostile environment in the Middle East that necessitates extraordinary security and defence measures. Nor will Israel's problems disappear by silencing the media to ignore them.

It is an unfortunate paradox that, while Israel has lost some potential tourists as a result of exaggerated media attention, it has gained much understanding and, indeed, tangible support because of American awareness of Israel's precarious situation. Rather than look for a confrontation with the media, the Israeli leadership would be better advised to develop its relations with the press, preferably through skilled and articulate representatives, while channelling national resources into constructive and attractive projects, be they in tourism, or social and educational endeavours. The message will get through.

The writer is director of the Israel office of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League.

IN HIS article "The Danger to Jewish Existence" (Jerusalem Post, January 17), Minister of Tourism Avraham Sharir raises some disturbing questions about the state of American Jewry. His concern for the erosion of the American Jewish community through assimilation and low birthrates is well founded, and is shared by many American Jewish leaders. So, too, is his desire for stronger ties between the State of Israel and American Jewry, whether through increased Jewish tourism or other means. But Mr. Sharir is ill-informed about American Jewish organizations, which he blames for not being responsive to these problems.

Mr. Sharir criticizes the Jewish organizations for ignoring two phenomena. They are, in fact, most preoccupied with maintaining Jewish identity in a largely gentile population and strengthening ties between American Jews and the State of Israel. This is but one of the several contradictions that flaw his argument. For instance, while deploring the erosion of Jewish life in America, Mr. Sharir also criticizes the fact that half of the funds raised by the United Jewish Appeal remain in the United States, where they are earmarked for Jewish schools, community centres and other educational and cultural facilities designed to sustain Jewish

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READERS' LETTERS

GOVERNOR CUOMO

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — Your columnist Mark Segal stated recently that "the only New York politician not to call on the president (Chaim Herzog) was N.Y. Governor Mario Cuomo." He then suggested that perhaps this could be a function of Cuomo's ongoing feud with Mayor Koch.

Because of Governor Cuomo's strong public condemnation of a course taught by Professor Ernest Dube at the State University at Stony Brook, New York, equating Zionism with racism and Nazism, and due to his generally pro-Israel record, I took the liberty of writing to the governor on this matter. I thought your readers would be interested in his reply, in part:

"With regard to the courtesy call on the President of Israel, Chaim Herzog, during his recent visit to New York, I am deeply disappointed that it was not possible for me to do so.

"I have for long admired President Herzog as a brilliant and eloquent spokesman for the State of Israel.

"I had very much hoped to call upon him, but regrettably the schedule of the president was so full that the Israeli Consulate offered me only one particular hour, on one particular day, for such a call. At that very time, I was in Albany, busy

with important matters of state that I couldn't cancel as much as I would have liked to do so.

"Of course, I understand that the President of Israel is very popular, and that many demands were made on his schedule during his short visit here. I do wish, however, that his schedule would have been more flexible so that I would have had the privilege and pleasure of calling upon him."

SANDY LEPELSTAT
N. Baltimore, New York.

THE REGENCY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I wish to reply to Eliezer Jacobus and I. Lamb regarding their letters of December 21.

I agree that \$400 for a room, no matter in which hotel, would be an extravagant expense for any government official, whatever his rank or position. However, knowing the enormous contributions made to the State of Israel by the brothers Tish, owners of the Regency Hotel, I dare say that neither Shamir, Sharon nor Dulzin would be asked to pay \$400 a night.

I guess that if some of these government executives don't stay at the Regency on a complimentary basis, they surely benefit from a really special reduced rate.

DAVID LEDERMAN

POSTSCRIPTS

PS VISITORS to London can now phone up the British Zionist Federation and hear a three-minute report of the latest news from Israel. The tape is changed every day, including Saturdays, at noon. The numbers to dial are 446-3302 or 446-3460. D.B.

PS THE FIRST International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy is being organized by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington. Jews interested in their family trees will attend lectures at the Jerusalem Hilton over a two-week period in April, 1984 in addition to visiting research sites, including the archives of Yad Vashem, the Jerusalem Municipality, the World Zionist Organization and Beth Hatefutsoth. Participants have already been asked to donate their personal family trees and record books of synagogues and Jewish communal societies to an archive in Israel. J.S.I.

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